

BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPr) FOR THE PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL 500M³ BULK FUEL OIL STORAGE TANK AT THE GROOTVLEI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Executive Summary of the Background Information Document

Eskom Holdings intends to undertake the installation of an additional 500m³ fuel oil storage tank at the Grootvlei Power Station near Balfour, Mpumalanga Province. The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) about the Basic Assessment (BA) process that is being conducted for the proposed project. In terms of Chapter 3 Section 16 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), Eskom Holdings have appointed SiVEST, as the independent environmental consultants, to undertake the required Basic Assessment process for the above-mentioned proposed project.

Public participation is the cornerstone of any BA process. The key objective of public participation process during this BA is to provide I&APs with sufficient and relevant information and to conduct a transparent consultation process to ensure effective participation throughout the BA process. This BID contains the most recent and relevant information with regards to the proposed project. This BID contains the background information relating proposed project as well as the need for the expansion development. The type of specialist studies that will be conducted throughout the process is mentioned. An outline of the BA process and applicable legislation is briefly explained in addition to pertinent roles and responsibilities that I&APs need to be cognisant of when becoming involved in the public participation process.

The fuel oil for the Grootvlei Power Station is currently stored in six (6) storage tanks. Five (5) tanks have a capacity of 97m³ each and one has a capacity of 75m³. Therefore, the total existing capacity at the Grootvlei Power Station is 560m³. Grootvlei Power Station is proposing the installation of an additional 7th bulk fuel oil storage tank with a capacity of 500m³ which will bring the total capacity of fuel oil stored at the Power Station to 1 060m³. The proposed additional 7th fuel oil tank is proposed to be installed in close proximity to the existing six (6) tanks.


The proposed site falls within the property of Eskom's Grootvlei Power Station which falls within the boundaries of the Dipaleseng Local Municipality in the greater Gert Sibande District Municipality. Eskom's Grootvlei Power Station is approximately 19km away from the nearest town of Balfour via the R51 arterial road.


The purpose for the installation of the proposed storage tank is to avert the risk of interrupted fuel supply that may be as a result of service delivery and worker strikes. This assurance of supply will assist the Power Station in sustaining its generation capacity. The proposed additional 7th fuel oil tank will therefore secure the fuel demands of the Power Station.

Please contact SiVEST, on the details provided below, should you have any concerns or comments.


COMMENTS AND QUERIES

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